

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

Candles That Burn. By Aline Kilmer. Pp. 68. \$1.25 net. George H. Doran Co., New York City.

The poems of this little book are Kilmerean, not only as bearing the author's own sure stamp of originality and personality, but also as possessing the spirit and coloring of her own hero lately dead. Readers of Joyce Kilmer's poetry know how, sometimes, common, even homely, themes were transformed by him into masterpieces of simple poetic beauty. Aline Kilmer has caught her husband's marked simplicity; no one will deny her a fair share of a like facility in the creation of the beautiful. Many of the present poems to her children are excellent child-poetry. Verses written after the departure of Joyce Kilmer for France, though tinged with sorrow, are of a godly sorrow that worketh unto good. Those entitled "Christmas," "To Rose," "I Shall Not be Afraid," "Haunted" and "To Two Little Sisters of the Poor," of this fine collection, are perhaps the best and with the others make both enjoyable and beneficial reading. G. K.

Fernando. By John Ayscough. Pp. 329. \$1.60 net. P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York City.

John Ayscough has won many friends since he charmed the literary world with his first book. These friends will now be glad to know what once filled his thoughts and troubled his soul. All Ayscough's stories are from the heart, but this one especially. And it is more than a story; it is the history of his youthful soul's searchings for the truth; it is the outpouring of a quiet, thoughtful but not too serious Anglo-Irish spirit. There is no chilling formality about this apologia; it is outspokenly sincere, scintillating with kindly humor, fascinating by the purity of its style. One sees the eyes of Johnny of Grace-church sparkling from its pages; but anon the sparkle goes and the quiet steady look asks, "What is truth?" For Johnny—now Fernando, a child of the Establishment—doubts. The history of this soul begins like a novel; it ends as a delightful novel should end—happily. Fernando finds the truth, and peace for his troubled soul in the only Church where doubt can have no haven. The history closes when young Bickerstaffe-Drew returns to the loving mother whom his fathers cast out as the Scarlet Woman. I. L.

Whose Name is Legion. By Isabel Clarke. \$1.35 net. Pp. 350. Benziger Bros., New York City.

This book deals with the war ever being waged by the Catholic Church against spiritism. It is an enthralling bit of fiction, replete with stirring coincidences. Miss Clarke's talent for character drawing is admirable. The confirmed addicts of the occult arts become so weak and degenerate as to demand our pity, while those characters who submit to the direction of Holy Mother Church are strong and lovable. Her description of the seance in the seventh chapter is intensely thrilling. The scenic delineation of rural England, the setting of the book's earlier chapters, is quaint and homelike; on the other hand, the reader is made to feel the loneliness of the mystifying atmosphere, even while glorying in the natural beauty which enshrouds the country round-about Algiers where the closing scenes are laid. A beautiful tale of love threads its way through the story, sustaining the interest of the reader until the last words of the final chapter. "Whose Name is Legion" is Catholic to the core, but very natural in its Catholicity, never becoming over-apologetic or aggressive.

Miss Clarke is worthily ranked among our eminent Catholic novelists; her latest work enhances her claim to this distinction.

R. M. B.

Sermons on Our Blessed Lady. By Rev. Thomas Flynn, C. C. \$2.20 net. Pp. 325. Benziger Brothers, New York City.

This volume contains a series of carefully prepared discourses on the life and virtues, perfections and dignities of the Blessed Mother of God—the House of Gold. And as a House of Gold the author successfully portrays her, setting forth in animated Scriptural and profane language her sublime position as the "All Fair" chosen one, and also the glories accruing to her by reason of the exalted role she played in the drama of Redemption. Part I treats in a consecutive way the main features of her earthly career. Part II embraces a discussion of her "riches and treasures" and the manner in which she dispenses these to her devoted children. Throughout the work Father Flynn consistently presents his thoughts in the light of the titles of our Lady's liturgical feasts and her Rosary mysteries. In this wise he shows his readers why her feasts are celebrated and her mysteries honored.

To us it appears that the application of certain texts of Holy Scripture to the Blessed Virgin is somewhat arbitrary and far-fetched, thereby producing a strained effect. Again, we think it would increase the value of these sermons, if in them there were more of that intimate, homely, anecdotal element the presence of which in all discourses, written or spoken enhances so much their interest and effectiveness. But on the whole Father Flynn deserves warm commendation for his series of sermons and may well feel proud of his labors in honor of the Queen of Heaven.

M. M.

War Mothers. By Rev. E. F. Garesche, S. J. 60 cents net. Pp. 58
Benziger Bros., New York City.

"War Mothers," with dedication to Joyce Kilmer, grandly eloquent, intensely poetical withal, reminds one of the facile expression and the dexterous ode structures of Coventry Patmore. Father Garesche has lived, therefore he may dream his poetry. In "War Mothers":

"I dream
White, eager faces; and mine ears
Are haunted with a sound of hidden tears."

preludes three beautiful dream-pictures of courageous mothers who tell of their heroes; of one who,

"While her brave lips their smiling kept,
I heard—it was her heart that wept."

And of a second,

"So did she smile, but in her heart there bled
A triple wound, and every gash was red."

And a third,

"Smiled likewise. But my inner heart could see
Her heart—and it was agony."

The poet sees, with these mothers, "Beneath the man that is, the babe that used to be." And who shall console?—

"Smile, O brave mother, smile
Till, here or afterwhile,
Sweet Mary leads thy brave son back to thee!"

There are eight other poems, all exquisite. Who reads has recompense.

G. K.

Outline Meditations. By Madame Cecilia. Pp. 209. \$1.65 post-paid. Benziger Brothers.

For two reasons is this volume a useful work. First, it will prove an aid to overworked directors of sodalities when lack of time prevents them from outlining their own sodality instructions. The skeleton discussions of subjects are grouped according to the liturgical seasons, this enabling one to prepare on short notice talks at once timely and interesting. Moreover, these "outline meditations" can be made to serve as bases for private mental prayer. For although some hold that they are altogether too meager and should be considerably more developed, and less preliminary they will conveniently furnish the ordinary mind with plentiful food for spiritual contemplations. M. M.

The Most Beloved Woman. By Rev. E. F. Garesche, S. J. 90 cents net. Pp. 155. Benziger Bros., New York City.

It is to be deeply regretted that so very few books have been written in English on the Immaculate Mother of God. She who was wisely selected as the Celestial Patroness of America, and who has ever been the "Comforter of the Afflicted" and the "Cause of our Joy" should be better known and loved by every Catholic in the United States.

Whoso desires to know more about the Blessed Virgin will heartily welcome "The Most Beloved Woman." In this little book Father Garesche holds a heart to heart conversation, and unconsciously leads you to the heart of Mary Immaculate. In a charming and pleasing manner he also describes the prerogatives of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. The author's style is pleasing. His book is devoid of tedious periodical sentences. It is enjoyable, very interesting, edifying and highly instructive. Not only will the religious find in it wholesome food for reflection, but also will the busy housewife and laboring man receive from it a stimulus to sanctify their "humdrum work-a-day lives."

C. Mc. E.

Requiem Mass and Burial Service. By Rev. J. J. Wynne, S. J. Five to sixty cents. The Home Press, New York City.

From her intimate knowledge of the needs of men Holy Mother Church has enriched her services for the dead with a liturgy of hope and consolation. By giving the faithful this Eng-

lish translation of the burial service Fr. Wynne has done them a great good. They can now drink more deeply from that blessed cup which the Church holds to the lips of her poor, bereaved children. This translation will also give the non-Catholic an insight into the loving solicitude with which our Holy Mother follows her own, whether living or dead. We would suggest that in future editions the printing be improved. Though legible, it is not quite satisfactory.

N. G.

Your Soul's Salvation. By Fr. Garesche, J. S. 75 cents net.
Pp. 156. Benziger Bros., New York City.

Your Interests Eternal. By Fr. Garesche, S. J. 75 cents net.
Pp. 155. Benziger Bros., New York City.

There is nothing that a practical Catholic finds more interesting than short, clear, informal conferences on his faith. To be sure, all that concerns one's immortal soul is necessarily of personal interest; still, instructions that are put in a popular form, sacrificing rhetorical splendor to a nobler end, cannot fail to make a deeper impression on the average man. This Fr. Garesche has successfully accomplished in these two little volumes. In the first the writer treats of the interior life of the individual, presenting suggestions which adapt themselves most conveniently to all. The second volume is concerned with our relations with God the Father and is also delightfully practical. The author tells us that they are presented to aid the reader in his spiritual advancement, to instill the love of one's neighbor and the defense of the faith. They are in every way suitable to be kept within one's reach, to be picked up and read during leisure moments. Fr. Garesche's volumes should do much to foster daily spiritual reading among the laity. Yet they are useful not only to layfolk, but to all who are striving for their personal sanctification and perfection. These little conferences are sure to meet with a most favorable reception.

R. H.

Convent Life—The Meaning of a Religious Vocation. By Martin J. Scott, S. J. P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York City. \$1.50 net. Pp. 316.

This work is a very plain, practical treatment of convent life and the meaning of a religious vocation. In language charmingly simple, yet unmistakably direct, Father Scott unfolds the every-

day life of the religious in its varied aspects so as to be perfectable understandable to all. He shows clearly that the religious life is neither fanciful nor sentimental. Service and sacrifice—words never before more pregnant in signification than today—these epitomize all that the religious life means; ease and pleasure are of the world, not of the cloister. There are chapters on those who enter the convent, why and how they enter, after entering and the prize offered to those who enter and walk faithfully in the way of the Lord. These are admirable and illuminating in their presentation. Then there are pages straightforwardly stating the vows and obligations of the entrants. Finally there are intensely interesting chapters dealing with the various activities of the different Sisterhoods. These are truly inspiring. Not only do they compel admiration, but they also beget a profounder appreciation of the big part so successfully executed by these noble women in the stupendous task of the Church in winning souls to Christ. All that the author says in this volume applies equally to the various brotherhoods.

This book has a strong appeal for priests, religious and the laity, and can be honestly and heartily recommended. Matter of especial interest to all is given and all should profit by its careful reading. It could serve as a valuable aid in apologetical work, for it straightens out the twisted notions of Protestants and of too many Catholics on the religious life and its obligations. We would be happy to learn that the publishers are considering a paper-covered edition, as we feel that such an edition would lend to a greater and much wider distribution of "Convent Life" and thus effect a vaster influence for good.

On page 281 the Dominican Lent is stated as beginning on the 24th of September. It begins on the 14th of the same month, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We sincerely trust that "Convent Life" receives the cordial welcome it deserves.

A Primer of Church Music. By Rev. V. C. Donovan, O. P. Pp. 81. \$1.25 net. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York City.

We are glad to note that after unforeseen delays this work is now off the press. It has already been reviewed in these pages.

Pocket Prayer-book. Pp. 158. 35c. to 65c. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

Marriage Legislation. By Very Rev. H. A. Ayrinhac, S. S. \$2.00. Pp. 335. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.